

**BOARD FOR HEARING AID SPECIALISTS AND OPTICIANS
MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians met on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at the Offices of the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, Perimeter Center, Board Room 2, 2nd Floor, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233. The following members were present for the meeting:

Saman Aghaebrahim
Darla Ann All
Michael Armstrong, MD
Stacey Brayboy
Pamela S. Chavis, MD
Beth Lynn Connors, AuD
Kristina F. Green
Erik S. Meland
Debra Ogilvie, AuD
June H. S. Rogers
Pamela Sue Smith
Laura Lee Thompson
Bruce R. Wagner
Kaytlyn Young

The following member was not present:

Melissa Gill

DPOR staff present for all or part of the meeting included:

Mary Broz-Vaughan, Acting Director
Tom Payne, Deputy Director
Stephen Kirschner, Executive Director
Joseph Crook, Regulatory Operations Administrator
Tamika Rodriguez, Licensing Operations Administrator
Amy Goobic, Executive Assistant

Elizabeth Peay was present from the Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Rogers determined that there was a quorum present, and called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m. **Call to Order**

Mr. Kirschner introduced and welcomed Board members, Stacey Brayboy, Dr. Michael Armstrong, and Saman Aghebrahim. **Welcome to New Board Member**

Upon a motion by Ms. Green and seconded by Ms. Young, the Board voted to approve the Agenda.

Approval of Agenda

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. All, Dr. Armstrong, Ms. Brayboy, Dr. Chavis, Dr. Connors, Ms. Green, Mr. Aghaebrahim, Mr. Meland, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Smith, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Wagner, and Ms. Young. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon a motion by Ms. Young and seconded by Dr. Ogilvie, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2021 Board for Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians Meeting.

**Approval of Minutes:
August 18, 2021
Board for Hearing
Aid Specialists and
Opticians Meeting**

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. All, Dr. Armstrong, Ms. Brayboy, Dr. Chavis, Dr. Connors, Ms. Green, Mr. Aghaebrahim, Mr. Meland, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Smith, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Wagner, and Ms. Young. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kirschner stated that there were no communications to report.

Communications

There were no public comments.

Public Comment

REPORTS

Mr. Kirschner reviewed Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians licensing statistics with the Board.

Licensing Statistics

Ms. Rodriguez reviewed the Hearing Aid Specialists and Opticians examination statistics with the Board for all exams administered between July 2021 and November 2021.

**Examination Report
and Exam Statistics**

**REGULATORY
ACTION AND
BOARD
GUIDANCE**

Mr. Crook provided a review of current regulatory actions to include: The Board's amendment to conform existing regulations to SB 1406, relating to reporting marijuana convictions, took effect on December 1, 2021. The Board's fast-track regulatory change to hearing aid specialist exam validity is currently in the Governor's office for review. The Hearing Aid Specialist action to expand training options will be considered in full later at this meeting. Finally, the Board's fee action is currently in the Governor's office for review.

Regulatory Report

Board members were provided two public comments received on the proposed regulatory changes to hearing aid specialist training and the staff proposed responses.

**Responses to Public
Comments on
Proposed
Regulations –
Expanding Training
Options**

Upon a motion by Dr. Connors and seconded by Dr. Ogilvie, the Board voted to approve the proposed responses. The members voting ‘yes’ were Ms. All, Dr. Armstrong, Ms. Brayboy, Dr. Chavis, Dr. Connors, Ms. Green, Mr. Aghaebrahim, Mr. Meland, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Smith, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Wagner, and Ms. Young. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members were provided the proposed regulations. Discussion was held on the DOLI apprenticeship program proposed for hearing aid specialists. Mr. Kirschner stated that the requirements for the Virginia apprenticeship program are the same as the US Department of Labor and Industry standards. Board members discussed changing the apprenticeship language to “Virginia DOLI or equivalent out-of-state program.”

**Hearing Aid
Specialist Proposed
Regulations –
Expanding Training
Options**

Upon a motion by Dr. Armstrong and seconded by Ms. Brayboy, the Board voted to approve the proposed regulations as amended. The members voting ‘yes’ were Ms. All, Dr. Armstrong, Ms. Brayboy, Dr. Chavis, Dr. Connors, Ms. Green, Mr. Aghaebrahim, Mr. Meland, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Smith, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Wagner, and Ms. Young. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Rogers called for nominations for Board Chair and Board Vice Chair.

Board Elections

Ms. All nominated Ms. Green for Chair. Ms. Rogers seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations for Chair.

Dr. Connors nominated Dr. Ogilvie for Vice-Chair. Mr. Wagner seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair.

Ms. Rogers closed the nominations, and the Board voted to elect Kristina Green as Chair and Debra Ogilvie, Au.D. as Vice-Chair.

The members voting 'yes' were Ms. All, Dr. Armstrong, Ms. Brayboy, Dr. Chavis, Dr. Connors, Ms. Green, Mr. Aghaebrahim, Mr. Meland, Dr. Ogilvie, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Smith, Ms. Thompson, Mr. Wagner, and Ms. Young. There were no negative votes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Kirschner thanked Ms. Rogers and Dr. Connors for their service to the Board. He also informed the new Board Members that there would be a short new board chair and vice-chair training session in the near future.

Other Business

Ms. Broz-Vaughan informed the Board that they would receive an email January 1, regarding submission of their Financial Disclosure Statement. All Board members are required to submit the disclosure statement by February 1, 2022.

Mr. Kirschner introduced new DPOR Deputy Director Tom Payne.

There being no other business to be brought before the Board, Ms. Rogers adjourned the meeting at 10:03 a.m. **Adjourn**

June, H. S. Rogers, Chair

Mary Broz-Vaughan, Board Secretary